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PATENT
Docket No. 220002060724
Client Reference 1999-128-6

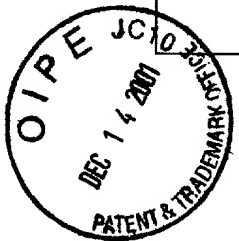
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Tamara Alcaraz



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Michael J. MAHAN et al.

Serial No.: 09/927,788

Filing Date: August 9, 2001

For: BACTERIA WITH ALTERED DNA
ADENINE METHYLASE (DAM)
ACTIVITY AND HETEROLOGOUS
EPITOPE

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: 1645

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Missing Parts
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request entry of this
Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned application.

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 6, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, and 23-29.

Please amend claims 13, 20, and 22 to read as follows:

13. (Amended) The immunogenic composition of claim 12, wherein the microorganism is *Vibrio cholera*.
20. (Amended) The immunogenic composition of claim 18, wherein the microorganism is HIV.
22. (Amended) The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the heterologous antigen is hepatitis B surface antigen.

REMARKS

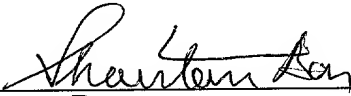
The above preliminary amendments to the claims are requested to better define the claimed invention. No new matter is introduced by these amendments, and these amendments are not made to avoid prior art. Claims 6, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, and 23-29 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to Applicant's rights to pursue such claims in the future in this or other continuing applications.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 220002060724.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 14, 2001

By: 
Shantanu Basu
Registration No. 43,318

Morrison & Foerster LLP
755 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, California 94304-1018
Telephone: (650) 813-5995
Facsimile: (650) 494-0792

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

13. (Amended) The immunogenic composition of claim 12, wherein the microorganism is [a bacteria selected from the group consisting of Enterotoxigenic *E. coli*, *Helicobacter phylori*, *Neisseria meningitis*, *Salmonella* (non typhoidal), *Salmonella typhi*, Shiga toxin producing *E. coli*, *Shigella spp.*, and] *Vibrio cholera*.

20. (Amended) The immunogenic composition of claim 18, wherein the microorganism is [selected from the group consisting, of] HIV [and Human Papillomavirus].

22. (Amended) The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the heterologous antigen is [an antigen of a microorganism which causes a] hepatitis [virus infection selected from the group consisting of Hepatitis A, Hepatitis] B [Hepatitis C, Hepatitis D, Hepatitis E and Hepatitis G] surface antigen.

Claims 6, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21 and 23-29 have been cancelled.